

## LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Minority Affairs Committee Meeting

Monday, September 17, 2007

11:05 a.m.

Third Floor, City Hall

**Present:**                      **Chair:**                      **CW Shanklin**  
                                         **Members:**                **CW Green, CM Unseld (absent), CW Raque Adams**  
                                                                                         **(absent) and CW Call (left at 11:30 p.m.)**

A quorum was established.

**Special Items for Discussion:** The Black Contractors Association – Training Program for ex-offenders and troubled youths.

James Sanders, Chairman of the Board, John Hilliard, President of The Black Contractors Association, Eddie Dunn and James White with the Black Contractors Association, spoke to the following concerns.

- The hiring of ex-offenders who not committed Violent Crimes or Sexual Predators
- People have to be ready to help themselves and have the motivation
- The Board of Directors makes the hiring decisions
  - ✓ The Board consist of Eight Business men
  - ✓ References can be obtained from their Pastor and other people
  - ✓ The Board looks closely at the individual character
- GED Program – or on the job training and work toward GED
- The Program will encourage them and will also work with the Adult Education Programs
- The program is not only for ex-offenders but individuals who didn't graduate from High School or have graduated and don't want to go to College
- To become a Journeyman
  - ✓ On the job training or attend a Training Program
  - ✓ Four years to become a Journeyman
  - ✓ Certification obtained after Four years
  - ✓ After certification one can work toward Master's License
- Trade union and Merit Shop
  - ✓ Most of the Contractors are with the Merit Shop
  - ✓ Merit shop workers manage their pay
  - ✓ The Unions Hall don't have a good record of hiring Minorities
  - ✓ Trade Unions manage a lot of the money
- Need for a Vocational School for individuals who don't want to go to College
- Issue of the Bonding – keeps minorities out of a lot of jobs
- Have to have a 700 Credit score to qualify for loans
- Contractors need low cost loans - to help with the cash flow
- The city can do more than offer a 20% minority participation policy in securing minority contractors
- Need Financing for Training and Bonding workers
- Need Economic Development back in the West End
- There is a great need to get the African Americans trained – Louisville has many new opportunities for Contractors with skills and certified.
- Soft Skills can be taken at the Urban League and The Justice Resource Center
- Job Corps Admissions and Placement located at the Nia Center – 2900 West Broadway
  - ✓ Job Corps will teach skills and place in a program
  - ✓ Transportation provided to and from the Nia Center
- Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) mailing address and numbers

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CW Green stated she would meet with the individuals that spoke before the committee and discuss some of their issues and try to help make sure they are getting their fair share of what is going on here in Louisville.

Chairwoman Shanklin stated she would talk with people in the Administration to see if the Bond program can be implemented again.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.m., without objections.

**\*NOTE: Items sent to the Consent Calendar or Old Business will be heard before the full Council at the September 27, 2007 Council Meeting.**

**MEM**